

A) Amendment to the claims:

Claims 1 - 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended). A method for producing town gas comprising the steps of:

- (A) preparing dimethyl ether as feed stock;
- (B) evaporating said dimethyl ether and;
- (C) exothermically reforming said dimethyl ether in the presence of catalyst

containing ruthenium or containing nickel, cerium and alumina, and steam to produce reformed gas containing mainly methane.

Claim 11. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 10, in which the quantity of said steam on reforming is within 10/1 to 0.5/1 molar ratio of steam/dimethyl ether.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 10, in which the temperature for catalytic reforming of said dimethyl ether is within 200 °C to 600 °C.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 10, in which said dimethyl ether is supplied serially to adiabatic fixed bed reactors through cooling means installed between said reactors.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 10, in which said dimethyl ether is divided and a divided portion thereof is serially supplied to adiabatic fixed bed reactors, and simultaneously supplying the remaining portion of said divided dimethyl ether to at least a subsequent one of said reactors.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 10, in which said dimethyl ether is reformed with a reactor selected from the group consisting of a fluidized bed reactor and a multi-tubular reactor.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 10, in which carbon dioxide by-produced by said reforming of said dimethyl ether is removed from said reformed gas after reforming said dimethyl ether.

Claim 17. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 16, in which said carbon dioxide is removed from said reformed gas by absorption by a solution selected from the group consisting of a aqueous alkanolamine solution and a heated aqueous potassium carbonate solution.

Claim 18. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 16, in which said carbon dioxide is removed from said reformed gas by adsorption by a pressure swinging method.

Claim 19. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 16, membrane.

Claim 20. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 16, in which hydrogen, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, which are by-produced on said reforming process, are methanized.

Claim 21. (previously presented) A method for producing town gas according to claim 10, in which a portion of said dimethyl ether is added to said reformed gas as carburant.